

**SCOFIELDTOWN WELL CONTAMINATION REVIEW MEETING
WITH DEP AND EPA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009**

A meeting regarding Scofieldtown well contamination review with DEP and EPA was held on October 14, 2009, 10th Floor Operations Conference Room, Stamford Government Center.

In attendance were:

Sarah Trombetta – TRC

Carl Stopper – TRC

Gerardo Millán – EPA

Ben Barnes – Director of Operations

Dr. Johnnie Lee – Director of Health

Lou Casolo – City Engineer

Yadira Abreu-Garcia – GIS

Amanda Flad – DEP (by phone)

Douglas Zimmerman – DEP (by phone)

David McKeegan – DEP (by phone)

Sharee Rusnak – Department of Public Health (by phone)

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Ben Barnes.

Review of Well Testing Program and City Response.

- Mr. Barnes stated that there are five new contaminated wells, four of them located on Alma Rock Road.
- The City already started construction on adding water mains on Hannah's Road and Larkspur Road. The City has begun the process to install water

mains for Alma Rock Road and Mary Joy Lane.

- The City continues to do more testing a little bit further field. Some tests have been done on Skyline Lane which is north of the area of contaminated wells. Mr. Barnes has given the OK to test some wells on Brookdale Road, which is just to the south of the Arboretum. There is a nursery school at the corner of High Ridge Road and Brookdale Road that will be tested.

Need for Additional Historical Information.

- Mr. Barnes stated that the City still continues to have major gaps in our historical records. We have not been able to identify many of the documents which he would expect to find. Mr. Barnes will send a written request to the State and to the EPA for copies of records they may have. Mr. Barnes is willing to send an employee to make copies. The City needs to begin to reconstruct its historical files on the entire area.

Scope of TRC Engagement.

Long Term Outlook.

- Ms. Sarah Trombetta stated that TRC prepared a proposal that includes several caps, the first of which is a GPR Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of the landfill area. TRC has contacted a subcontractor who can perform that work. The target depth of 30 feet has been established, so they can determine what remains below the landfill area.

The next task is to obtain surface water samples at multiple locations including the pond in the park area, several location along the brook and one from the pond over by the Alma Rock Road area.

- The primary task will be to install a series of nested well pairs within and outside the landfill area. They have seven locations chosen around with the furthest of fields being in the cul-de-sac at Very Merry Road. One in the field area of the Magnet School, one generally to the north of the landfill area, one to the southwest, sort of between Smith House and Scofield Manor and three within the landfill footprint itself. This way they can have some groundwater data, it can be surveyed in, they can get some flow directions and establish what is happening within and within the immediate area of the landfill.
- These monitoring wells will be set up in the next couple of weeks. They will take about a week to a week and a half to install, then they will be developed and then sampled about a week after that.
- Mr. Barnes suggested that since we received new positive results further to the east, they should include some sites further to the east for the monitoring,

Ms. Trombetta agreed. Ms. Trombetta stated that a good place to install in would be the cul-de-sac of Alma Rock Road.

- It is yet to be determined how often TRC will be sampling, it will be based on the results of what they find.
- Mr. Barnes stated that the City is about to go back and follow up with re-sampling of the positive concentrations (22 homes), at the same time we do well filter verification. The City is about to hire a firm to do another EPA 505, pesticides, pre and post filtration as well as adding inorganics/metals that we did not test for the first time.
- Mr. Barnes stated that is a little late in the year for the City to make an alternative arrangement for composting leaves and is intending to compost leaves at the Scofieldtown site this year. Mr. Barnes told the department heads that they should plan in their budget for not composting leaves there next year and the following year. Ms. Trombetta stated that the equipment being used is fairly mobile and will be able to work around rows of compost. Mr. Barnes suggested that is probably best if work there can start before leaf pick up in mid November.
- Ms. Trombetta stated that the GPR will be looking primarily for metals, buried drums, and other large items. The EPA has not done a similar test because it is not something they ordinarily do, if anything that would be the Renewal Program. The scope and nature of the EPA's investigation are very limited. They are just trying to determine what is the minimum amount of samples they need to confidently say either that the contamination issues from the site, or they can say that this is not NPL Material (National Priority List). NPL is a list of the worst of the worst sites in the nation that need to be cleaned up right away. They can state that this site could be addressed by some other programs.
- Ms. Amanda Flad stated that the DEP was thinking of the potential for soil sampling around the foundation of the homes to investigate whether or not these homes have been treated for termites in the 60's. The DEP suggests going around the foundation of the homes 4 to 5 feet. Residents are requesting soil samples.

Mr. Stopper stated that in order to get to the level of well contamination, bedrock contamination groundwater, it would go beyond just the standard application for pest control, it would have to be some dumping of material.

Mr. Stopper stated that the actual cause of the contamination is unclear until we have enough groundwater data. Mr. Stopper feels confident that the groundwater sampling proposed in the locations described will give us enough information to have a firmer understanding of the possible link

between contamination at the dump site and the well contamination.

- The entire area had been agricultural as early as 1935, it was developed between 1955 and 1965. The Bartlett Arboretum was gifted to the State of Connecticut and later became into City ownership by the Bartlett family, who owns a tree company. There are some records that show that they were improperly maintaining. A Health Director's notice to them in 1970 indicating that they were improperly storing pesticide on site and they needed to properly dispose of it.
- If something went down into a septic system, deeper soil samples near the septic systems will be needed.
- TRC will prepare one report that identifies the procedures, the results and tabulation of what they know. They will add in appropriate data as necessary. They will prepare a map showing the locations of the samples and once the wells are surveyed and they have that data they can draw groundwater flow direction. They will have everything in one document. It will give recommendations with the landfill and perhaps what needs to be done within the subdivision.
- Mr. Stopper stated that at the end of the investigation program the City will have enough information to make some preliminary assessments of what may be necessary and get a sense of what the scope of potential remedial action might be required in order to address issues. More than likely the detail that we are going to be getting from this program will not be sufficient for the development of a full remedial action plan. In order to get to the final remedial action state additional sampling would likely have to be done. There is the need for some treatability kind of studies.
- Mr. Millán stated that in order to consider this for the NPL List he will have to have more sediment or surface water sampling, and more data of the surface water pathway. Right now the case is closed, but they have enough information and a score high enough to continue assessment and moving towards proposing this site to the NPL if indeed that was a wish of Connecticut DEP. They need a commitment from the State and the town that indeed they want to move forward with the NPL listing route.
- There are pros and cons with the NPL List. The Cons are: enormous amount of time and funds. The Pros are: The assurance that the whole issue will be addressed and completed. In Mr. Millán's opinion that should be the very last resource, because there is a stigma associated to it. There will be issues with property values, investment, etc. It is in the best interest of the City to explore all the other alternatives available before proposing this site to the list and become an NPL site.

- Mr. Millán will provide his technical opinion, just be aware that it will not be an official direction from his program's point of view, simply because of the status of project. He cannot involve any contractors to work on the site, because the project is close, sort of speak.
- Mr. Millán stated that the City needs to know the ground water flow, review the history of the site and try to rule out or rule in other possible sources like the Arboretum. From the health perspective the two main concerns are surface soil and ground water.

Cost Estimates/Grant Opportunities.

- Mr. Barnes asked any of those from the State and Federal government if they are aware of any way the City of Stamford can try to get funding assistance.
- We are about to go into the capital budgeting process, this is a long term process in which we identify the capital needs of the City going on seven years. Mr. Barnes asked if anyone knows what an appropriate amount of money would be for the City to program out over the next 5 to 7 years, we welcome any guide. Mr. Stopper stated that at this point is very hard to pin point numbers that far out, not knowing what it's truly going on with the ground water.
- Mr. Millán suggested that Mr. Barnes work with Connecticut DEP in identifying other similar sites that they know of, and compare one against the other, it can give us an estimate.
- Mr. Barnes asked the Connecticut DEP representatives that if they know of any projects in Connecticut that are similar to Scofieldtown contamination to provide him with the contact information.
- Mr. Millán offered a suggestion regarding the funding, there may be associations of City governments that Stamford might be a member of. Check at a chapter or Environmental Protection to see what feed back we can get from them.

Next Steps.

- The scope of work described by TRC will take a couple of months to be completed. If the GPR shows a lot of suspect, potential buried objects it could trigger additional site investigations to see what the nature of those are.
- Mr. Millán stated that when a property owner joins one of Connecticut DEP's Voluntary Clean Up Programs, the Connecticut DEP furnishes that evidence to the EPA, they EPA can put a special category to the site. This is beneficial to property owners. Basically the EPA is saying that they are not touching the

site momentarily, they are allowing the property owner to complete the clean up activity with the State's satisfaction. When the clean up is completed, approved by the State and a report has been provided, then the EPA will be willing to remove the site from the list and that will be the end of all liabilities for property owners.

- State funds are being applied to this for the GAC filter treatment.
- Mr. Zimmerman requested that Ms. Trombetta and Mr. Stopper keep in touch with Amanda Flad, specially when they get closer to the cul-de-sac of Very Merry Lane. Ms. Trombetta will provide the DEP with a copy of the map with the generalized locations.
- There will be soil samples obtained from the borings that TRC puts in, but beyond that they are not going to do any additional intrusive work at this time at the landfill.
- Mr. Barnes stated that he expects that the specifics of the City's proposal for dealing with the landfill are going to be developed over the next year or year and a half.
- If TRC needs to do some more aggressive test pitting they will need DEP's approval.
- The City does not need written consent from the DEP to drill ground water monitoring wells within the boundaries of the landfill. The City will need written consent to do any disruptive work.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.